



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Boating Advisory Council (BAC) File  
**FROM:** Tom Reilly  
**DATE:** May 25, 2012  
**RE:** BAC Meeting - May 21, 2012

A BAC meeting was scheduled for and held May 21<sup>st</sup> (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) in the Helena FWP Commission room. Attendees at the meeting were:

- John FitzGerald - Jordan
- Jerry Gangstad - Avon
- Dean Culwell - Helena
- Bob Gilbert - Sidney
- Terry Selph (via conference call) - Lewistown
- Chas Van Genderen – Montana State Parks
- Tom Reilly – Montana State Parks

### Discussion

- An agenda was developed and mailed to the BAC members with the meeting notice confirmation on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The agenda topics were generally followed during the meeting.
- Discussions included the role of the BAC and the possibilities of expanding it to a broader scope. Traditionally, the BAC has had a rather narrow role with advising on the expenditure of the Boat-In-Lieu (BIL) funds. There are numerous other boating-related issues statewide that could use additional review, discussion, and advocacy.
- The funding Montana State Parks utilizes for improvements at motorboating sites was discussed. A handout was provided detailing the (7) sources. It was noted that Motorboat Fuel Tax funds were not included on the sheet. These funds are a significant funding source for Montana State Parks operations statewide, but are typically not utilized for specific capital-related or major maintenance boating improvements.
- Potential groups we can contact and engage on Montana boating related issues include: Bass Masters, Walleyes Unlimited, Pike Masters, and the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM).
- Boat dealers and non-motorized boaters are other constituent groups that can be engaged related to statewide boating issues.
- Marina operators – another interest group related to boating in Montana

EQC  
July 18, 2012  
Exhibit 9

- Boating accidents and fatalities – recordkeeping and conveying the information as a means of public education. The information is not getting conveyed as well as it could be.
- Search and Rescue (SAR) – several Legislative Sessions ago a law was passed to put \$0.25 into a SAR fund. Where does the funding go and how much is in the account? Follow-up to determine the answers.
- Ideas and possibilities of purchasing equipment to benefit boating sites was offered and discussed. These include road graders from military surplus sources and firefighting equipment for other sources. These will be followed-up on.
- Discussion of the Montana Coast Guard Auxiliary's activities in Montana. Montana has three Flotillas. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is very involved with boating patrols and safety efforts in the areas where their members operate (Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Flathead Lake and Fort Peck Reservoir).
- Other areas for improved communication and coordination included aids to navigation, establishing a boating coordinator and consolidating programs under one person program, and lastly a funding source from non-motorized boaters to distribute costs more effectively.

#### Conclusion

The meeting was a positive exchange among the BAC members, Chas and I. All agreed more could be done collectively to promote boating in Montana. It is noteworthy that four members travelled to Helena for the meeting and one other took time to participate via conference call.

The meeting ended with the commitment to get back the BAC members concerning future steps, possible legislation to expand the role and function of the group, and related efforts.

Attachments: 1. BAC Member List and Contact Information.  
2. Agenda – May 21, 2012 BAC Meeting.  
3. Motorboating Improvement Programs & Funding Sources (handout).



## Motorboating Improvement Programs & Funding Sources

### Program Components

- Safety Education
- Enforcement and Compliance
- Site Development and Management

### Funding Sources

There are several funding sources available to the Parks Program for expenditure on motorboating projects and activities statewide. The individual funding sources are:

- Boat-In-Lieu – state funds generated from boat registrations in Montana counties. A portion of the funds come to the Parks Division for boating improvements at Department managed sites statewide.
- U.S. Coast Guard – federal funds used for boating safety and education efforts.
- Federal DJ – federal funds administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for boating improvements on an individual grant basis. Federal funds are matched with state funds for up to 3:1 on qualifying projects. These federal funds have played a significant role in funding boating improvements at sites such as Flathead Lake, Tongue River reservoir, Hell Creek, and similar sites.
- Park Road Funds – state funds utilized for State Park road-related projects and improvements. Examples include: access roads, parking areas, signage, and related infrastructure.
- Motorboat Decal Fees – state funds utilized for various motorboating projects and improvements.
- Park User Fees – state funds (general defined as Parks Earned Revenue) that come from statewide camping fees, non-resident day-use, firewood sales, and similar sources. These funds are the most flexible funds available, but typically the type which are the most scarce within the Parks Division.
- Vehicle Registration Fees – state funds on Montana light vehicles (less than 6,000 lbs. GVW) of which \$5.37 of the \$6.00 voluntary payment comes to State Parks for park maintenance and the operations (including motorboating sites). As an aside, of the total \$6.00, \$0.25 goes to the FAS Program and \$0.38 is allocated to the operations at Virginia City/Nevada City.



## Boating Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting

- Date: May 21, 2012
- Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Location: FWP Headquarters Building, 1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, MT 59620  
Commission Room

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Changes within Montana State Parks (background and current); update since the last BAC meeting.
3. Function of the BAC—possible expansion of input and involvement.
4. Statewide Boating Projects—2009 and 2011 Appropriations.
5. Federal, State, and Local Boating Operations—differences, similarities.
6. Current boating issues in Montana—what are the needs out there (facilities, safety, policy, education, compliance needs)?
7. Other issues.



## **Boating Advisory Council (BAC) Members**

May 2012

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